

## [Frank Nicholas]

### FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER George Hartman ADDRESS 2438 W. Lincoln, Nebraska

DATE Nov. 18, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant. Frank Nicholas, DeWitt
2. Date and time of interview. Nov. 18, 1938 3-4:30 p.m.
3. Place of interview. DeWitt, Nebraska
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.  
None.
5. Name and address of person, if any accompanying you. Ed Brantham, 861 N. 26th.  
Lincoln, Nebraska.
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Nice home, modern. Lives [alone?].

### FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER George Hartman ADDRESS 2438 W. Lincoln, Nebr.

DATE Nov. 18, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Frank Nicholas DeWitt Nebr.

1. Ancestry. English

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2. Place and date of birth. DeWitt, Nebr., 1861.
3. Family. Lives alone.
4. Place and date of birth. Dewitt, 1861.
5. Education, with dates. Log Cabin school.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates. Farmer
7. Special skills and interests. Farming
8. Community and religious activities
9. Description of informant. Crippled. Bald, heavy set.
10. Other points gained in interview. Self conscious man as he has been crippled all of his life.

### FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER George Hartman ADDRESS 2438 W. Lincoln Nebr.

DATE Nov, 18, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Frank Nicholas Dewitt Nebr.

I was the first white child born on Turkey Creek. The old settlers settled on the creek for water and timber. When my father came to Saline County there was only four families.

My father furnished the family with meat by hunting and fishing.

We had no trouble with indians as my father was not afraid them.

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One time indians asked us for some melons. My mother said "all right" and the indians took them. They came and said the "Papoose was no good."

Half of the indians language was sign-talking. After they did learn the talk English they wouldn't say much.

One time an indian youth came and asked me in sign language for some hay. I told him all right and he started to get it. I saw my father coming up and went down behind the barn to watch. My father asked him what the devil he was doing. He frightened the young indian and the indian said, "I was borrowing some hay." The indian asked me in sign language for some hay thinking that he could get it easier than if he would if he talked English.

The Story of Judge Wild.

One morning in the year of 1872, Court was being held by the county judge at Swan City, Saline County, Nebr. About the middle of court, Judge Wild got up and said; "Court is adjourned until I get a drink.

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One of the lawyers objected to such a procedure as a judge going out to get a drink of whiskey, during court.

Judge Wild: "I don't give a damn for law or Presidents. When I want a drink I'm going out to get it!" And out to a drink he went.

In the year of 1876 there was a man named Joe Rouse who never took a bath or wore decent clothes. One day several young men of Swan City took Joe Rouse forcibly down to the Turkey Creek where they undressed him, scrubbed him with soap and creek water and then put a new suit of clothes on him that one of the boys had stole from one the stores. The boys cut his hair and fixed him up "pretty." Joe Rouse had all of the young man arrested the next morning. They were brought up to Judge Wild who after hearing the

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case and seeing Joe all cleaned up in a new suit exclaimed. "Joe, you've got a new suit of clothes and you look fine. Case is dismissed!"